

THE BIRDS OF BRITISH BALUCHISTAN

BY

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PART II

(With 2 Plates)

(Continued from page 711 of this Volume)

***Ploceus philippinus philippinus* (L.)** The Baya.

A male shot at Quetta on July 10, 1916 and a female at Sheik Mandah, August 6, 1914, are the only records of this weaver. I have examined both these birds in the Quetta Museum and could see no signs of their having been in captivity. Weavers are very likely to be resident at Sibi (I have seen nests close to the upper Sind-Baluchi frontier) so perhaps odd ones stray up to Quetta occasionally.

There is no record of any Weaver in the rest of Baluchistan, it might well occur in Las Belas; Zarudny however mentions old Weavers' nests of unknown species in South Persian Baluchistan.

***Ploceus manyar flaviceps* (Less.)** The Striated Weaver Bird.

Radcliffe records that a pair of these Weavers were seen at Samungli four miles west of Quetta on July 17, 1913 and suggests that they were escapes from the bazaar; very likely.

***Uroloncha malabarica*, L.** The White-throated Munia.

In the Quetta valley there are records of this Munia in July, August, September and January. In small numbers and locally it may be resident; Cumming found a nest at Babli on August 16. On the Ziarat Road Meinertzhagen saw large flocks at Khawash (7,500 ft.) on July 31. It is common at Sibi and at Fort Sandeman.

Duke and St. John both met with it at various places in Kalat (up to 5,790 ft.), and Hotson found it in S. Kalat and Jhalawan where it was not uncommon in August and September and is doubtless resident. In the Habb Valley I found it quite common and it occurs in the Las Belas Plain but how far, if at all, it extends along the Makran is not known; no one has recorded it from west of Las Belas.

***Amandava amandava amandava*, L.** The Indian Red Munia.

Radcliffe says that this Munia is frequently seen in small flocks in the Quetta valley and he has obtained specimens in November. Probably it is an irregular wanderer from the plains and may well be resident at Sibi.

No records elsewhere and I failed to find it west of Karachi.

***Coccothraustes coccothraustes humii*, Sharpe.** Hume's Hawfinch.

Murray records the Hawfinch on the Khojak in April and May; and Barnes says it is common in the hills. This is probably correct as there is a specimen in the Karachi Museum labelled Chaman. It occurs at Fort Sandeman whence there is a specimen in the British Museum; Meinertzhagen obtained a straggler at Quetta on March 1. Marshall's records do not refer to this species. The Hawfinch is probably very local and not very common (as in most places) in the wooded hills.

***Mycerobas carnipes speculigerus*, Brandt.** The White-winged Grosbeak.

This fine Grosbeak is resident in the highest hills of N. Baluchistan from Harboi in Kalat, on Khaliphat, Murdan, etc., and the Ziarat District and probably beyond. It is not uncommon where found and breeds in June at

9,000–11,000 ft. In winter it is said to descend to lower levels but it never reaches the Quetta Valley. Meinertzhagen records a nest with four eggs on June 7 as being a cup made of fine twigs and coarse grass lined with fibre and placed on a branch of a juniper 5 ft. from the ground. I came across small parties of this bird in autumn at Ziarat associating with *Turdus atrogularis* in the juniper trees and feeding on the orange berries of a bush so common in the forest; they seemed rather secretive and shy.

Baluchi birds and those from Tian-shan and Gilgit on the one hand differ from those from Sikkim on the other in that the females are paler on the breast and vent; the wing measurements of the two series of females are the same, viz., W. 116–123 mm. the type of *carneipes* came from Nepal whence the specimens examined are few and poor, but I think that they are the same as Sikkim birds. I think *speculigerus* may be used for the Baluchi bird and for those from the N. W. Himalayas.

***Carpodacus rhodochlamys grandis*, Blyth.** The Red-mantled Rose Finch.

The distribution of this Rose Finch in N. Baluchistan appears to be the same as that of the Grosbeak, and it breeds at similar elevations but in winter it moves down more and is occasionally found in the Quetta Valley. Meinertzhagen records nests early in May in wild briars. In the autumn I found it only at the highest part of the Ziarat juniper forest; small parties were met with in the thickest juniper trees often feeding under them close to or on the ground.

C. rhodochlamys rhodochlamys has been recorded from Quetta; I have examined the supposed example in Quetta Museum and consider it to be *grandis*.

***Carpodacus erythrurus roseatus* (Hodg.)** The Common Rose Finch.

Information concerning the Common Rose Finch is not as full as it might be. In N. Baluchistan it must breed fairly commonly in the higher hills; Col. Venning obtained several specimens between June 4 and July 14 at Shinghar (Fort Sandeman District) where the birds must have been nesting; Marshall records it as common in May at Ziarat so it may breed there too. I saw a large flock in the forest there in September. Meinertzhagen records that he often saw this species round Quetta in the summer—presumably on the higher hills.

To the Quetta Valley and Kandahar it is a fairly common passage migrant in April and again at the end of August and in September, but there are no winter records in the north.

Over the rest of Baluchistan there is still less information. Cumming has obtained it at Ormarra on October 1 and found it not uncommon at Charbar in winter.

***Buchanetes githaginea crassirostris*, Blyth.** The Trumpeter Bullfinch.

The Trumpeter Bullfinch is apparently rather local and not very common in N. Baluchistan though Barnes records it common at Chaman; it may well be commoner than records indicate as I have found it easily overlooked except when coming to water. It is no doubt more or less resident moving about locally. Meinertzhagen has seen it at Kushdil Khan and Azim in July and June and W. D. Cumming at Saranan also in June so it must breed in these localities and also at Kalat whence I have seen specimens in May and early August. It is recorded from the Pishin Valley in September and Kandahar in February. Williams records a nest with four eggs at Sheik Mandah on May 14; the nest was among the rafters of an old out-house, he says it also nests in vineyards in Pishin Valley.

To the Makran coast it is a winter visitor from the Habb Valley in the east to the Persian frontier, so far as is known, though it probably breeds in the hills at no great distance away. In Central Baluchistan its status is unknown but I have seen a specimen from near Khozdar (Jhalawan) obtained on September 30. Cumming renders the call-note as 'stand-at-ease.'

***Buchanetes mongolicus* (Swinh.)** The Mongolian Trumpeter Bullfinch.

Barnes records this Desert Bullfinch as not uncommon at Chaman and two were obtained there on April 8, 1880, by Murray (now in British Museum). I met with a large flock on rather bare stony ground by the tank at Hanna near Quetta on December 13, 1917 and obtained two specimens. W. D. Cumming sent me another from Saranan on March 1, 1924. Status not clear; winter visitor?

Rhodospiza obsoleta (Licht.) Lichtenstein's Desert Finch.

This Rose-finch, known locally as the Quetta Rose-finch, is not uncommon and resident, but is only recorded in the district, Quetta to Kandahar. At Quetta the numbers are said to be augmented by spring arrivals in March. It appears to be subject to local migrations when the young are flown, and is said to leave the Quetta Valley at the end of July until September; certainly I searched in vain for it in mid-August. At Sheik Mandah where it breeds commonly W. D. Cumming noticed the same thing.

In some years nest building begins as early as the first week in March but the last week of April is the more usual time for first full clutches of eggs; young have been found however by April 28 and May 9. W. D. Cumming has noted a second nest being built on May 22, while the young of the first brood were still being fed and has found fresh eggs on June 18. It is a garden bird nesting in pollarded vines, roses, almond, apricot, etc., from 3 to 10 feet up and also in roadside trees; the clutch is 5 to 6 sometimes 4 or 7. The nest is a typical finch nest composed of sticks, twigs, grasses and lined with cottonwool and hair or feathers; one nest examined by me was made mainly of native cotton and string incorporating a few tamarisk twigs and bits of rag and lined with wool. The eggs vary from palest sea-green to nearly white marked at the larger end with dots and scrolls of brownish-black, sometimes very sparsely. Nineteen eggs measure max. 20.5×15 mm., 18×14.5 and 19.5×14 . Williams records a young cuckoo in a nest of this species.

It has been recorded as common at Chaman in spring and autumn and at Kandahar throughout the year.

THE GOLDFINCH

Carduelis caniceps caniceps (Vig.).**Carduelis caniceps subulata** (Gloger.).**Carduelis caniceps parapanisi** (Koll.).

The status of this Goldfinch is not clear; most observers state that it is a winter visitor in fair numbers from early November to mid-April to Quetta, Chaman and Kandahar; Radcliffe however says that it is found in summer in the higher valleys and that at Ziarat he thought that it was breeding. Hotson too thought he saw it there in the last week of July. Further information and specimens are needed to clear up the point. Elsewhere in Baluchistan there are no records.

In spite of its being a fairly common bird few specimens are available to determine what races occur. One, obtained by Meinertzhagen, is very large and pale, ♂ W. 87.5 mm. and is I think *C. c. subulata* (= *orientalis*, auct.); this is the only one I have seen of this race. Three others are distinctly darker and smaller, ♂♂ W 82.5-83.5 and match well birds from Tian-shan and I consider them to be *C. c. parapanisi*. Two others again W. 79 and 82 are darker still and match well the Himalayan bird *C. c. caniceps*; (*subcaniceps* of Zarudny appears to be the same) or *parapanisi*; at least a series from Ferghana are quite the same as a series from Tian-shan and measure 80-86 (Ferghana) and 81-86 (Tian-shan).

Carduelis carduelis major (Tacz.). The Eastern Goldfinch.

One of a pair, from a flock of *caniceps*, obtained by Meinertzhagen on February 27, at Quetta, is the only record.

Acanthis cannabina fringillirostris (Bp. and Schleg.). The Eastern Linnet.

The Linnet is evidently a rare winter visitor. Meinertzhagen records a flock at Quetta on February 14; he obtained a male at Chaman on April 2, and there is another in the Quetta Museum obtained on March 31. No records elsewhere.

[C. E. Williams records that he saw an Eastern Twite in N. Baluchistan in June. There are no other records of this species which I cannot include on one 'sight record'.]

Serinus pusillus (Pall.). The Red-fronted Serin.

The Red-fronted Serin is common and resident, breeding in the higher hills of N. Baluchistan—Ziarat, Zarghun, Takatu, Murdan and probably the

Khojak and elsewhere at 8,000 to 10,000 ft. It descends to lower elevations in winter and in severe weather at all events enters the Quetta Valley, and the Kandahar Plains. Meinertzhagen record a nest on May 10, situated in an oleander bush, 3 ft. from the ground. In the autumn these birds congregate into small flocks and are very partial to the sides and bottoms of the *tangis* in the forest, feeding on grass seeds, etc., and they are very fond of clumps of wild briars in which too they seek their food. On being disturbed the flock will invariably fly up to the bare top of the nearest juniper. At Chaman it is recorded in spring and autumn in agricultural fields as they move up and down from their nesting ground. No records elsewhere.

***Fringilla montifringilla*, L. The Brambling.**

The Brambling is a common winter visitor to the Quetta Valley frequenting gardens, orchards, etc., and the roadside. In December 1917 it seemed to me to be the commonest small bird in the valley. It is recorded from Kandahar and Fort Sandeman and probably occurs elsewhere in N. Baluchistan at not too high an elevation. It arrives early in November and leaves at the end of March, latest April 2.

***Gymnorhis xanthocollis transfuga* (Hart.). The Yellow-throated Sparrow.**

The Yellow-throated Sparrow is decidedly uncommon in N. Baluchistan. Murray records it from Sagee near Gulistan and the Khojak early in April but says it was rare and only seen in the plains. St. John only recorded it from Kandahar. Meinertzhagen obtained one from a small flock at Quetta on March 2. It occurs at Sibi and is probably not uncommon there. The status beyond the Bolan Pass is probably a rare summer visitor.

Throughout Central and Coastal Makran however it is found locally where trees occur and is resident. Its distribution can be traced from Sind right through the Makran to Charbar, Jask, Bampur and Shiraz to Fao, Busra and Baghdad. At Charbar W. D. Cumming informed me it was only a passage migrant and in Iraq it is only known as a summer visitor.

THE HOUSE SPARROW

***Passer domesticus indicus*, Jard.**

***Passer domesticus parkini*, Whistler.**

‘Gingishki’, Bal.

To Kandahar, Chaman, Quetta Valley and the hill country generally of N. Baluchistan the House Sparrow is a very common summer visitor arriving in the second week of March at Quetta, first week of April at Kandahar. Meinertzhagen records that on arrival at Quetta they frequent hillsides before drawing in to the town to dispute possession of nesting holes with the resident Tree Sparrows. It is certainly of the two much more a country bird, the roadside trees being full of their nests—a thing I never remember seeing in the plains of India—while in the autumn swarms may be seen in every field to the entire exclusion of the Tree Sparrow. But besides habitations and trees, holes in earth banks are used and even cliffs at 10,000 feet. Full clutches of eggs may be found by the second week in May. Most must depart in September and Cumming has noted them collecting and migrating by September 9 but I saw some still at Ziarat (9,000 ft.) on October 7. Nor do quite all leave Quetta in winter for I saw a few, the only ones however, on December 14 at the railway station. It is common and resident in the Sibi plain but at stations between Sibi and Jacobabad I saw in small patches of cultivation on September 24, far more Sparrows than could possibly have been bred locally and these were no doubt migrants from the hills. I saw an albino at Spintangi.

How far south the House Sparrow ceases to be a migrant and becomes resident I do not know but it is fairly common throughout Central and Coastal Makran wherever there are habitations, as well as in the Nushki Plain. In Coastal Makran it is at all events resident. W. D. Cumming informed me that there were no House Sparrows at Ormarra prior to 1901 but since then it has become common.

The question arises what race of House Sparrow inhabits Baluchistan? In the plains of India we have a small and resident race *indicus*. In the higher parts of the Himalayas we find a larger and migratory bird which Mr. Whistler

has named *parkini* (type loc. Cashmere) but as we should expect with a bird of continuous distribution some places are inhabited by intermediate sized birds. Turning now to Baluchistan there is no doubt that *indicus* goes along the Mekran coast to Gwader and beyond and the few I have seen from Central Makran are *indicus* too. But birds from Kalat, Quetta and Kandahar are large 13 ♂♂, W. 77-82 (most 79-82) though Meinertzhagen tells me he has a ♂, W. 72, an abnormal bird. 30 ♂♂ from the plains of India measure W. 72-78 (most 75-77).

***Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus*, Tschusi. The Spanish Sparrow.**

I think the Spanish Sparrow has been largely overlooked in Baluchistan or else it is unaccountably rare. Mr. J. W. Nicol Cumming obtained three at Sheik Mandah on November 3, 1913 and his brother recorded them there on October 24, 1923 and obtained specimens on March 1, 1924. Watson records it as a winter visitor at Chaman from October to December. On the other hand St. John says it is common at Kandahar in summer and Swinhoe says it arrives there in large flocks with the House Sparrow, i.e., in April; St. John was probably referring to this and not implying that it bred there.

In British Mekran I have no record though this species must surely occur; Hotson however met with large flocks in January at Geh on the Persian side and Zarudny says a few breed in the Karwander District (N. of Bampur.)

There can be little doubt that the Afghan Scrub Sparrow (*Passer moabiticus yalii*) will be found within our limits; Zarudny found it at the following places some of which are only just over the British frontier, in Persian Baluchistan and Makran—Naranu and Mok Sultan in Mashkel Valley district; Jalk; Rud-i-Kalugan; nr. Dizak; Rud-i-Sarbas;—all in winter and he found no evidence of nesting there. One might expect it too in the Chaga District west of Nushki.

Zarudny records too the Sind Scrub Sparrow (*Passer pyrrhonotus*) from the Zaristan district and from Lekuball where he found supposed old nests. I know of no record between these places and the Indus.

Passer griseigularis has been obtained at Kandahar in April but not so far in Baluchistan.

***Passer montanus dilutus*, Richm. The Tree Sparrow.**

The Tree Sparrow is resident in N. Baluchistan between 5,000-7,500 ft. and is the 'house sparrow' of the country. There is some slight elevational movement in winter when the numbers at Quetta and Chaman are augmented by visitors. It breeds in holes in trees, but more often under eaves, holes in buildings, etc. Eggs are recorded from April 2 to June 4 (Meinertzhagen). In August I found it very noticeable that all the Sparrows of the streets and compounds at Quetta were all Tree Sparrows and the Sparrows of the country side were all House Sparrows.

How far south of Kalat it is resident I do not know but small numbers evidently visit the Makran coast in winter at which season Cumming occasionally saw them at Ormarra.

Zarudny named the bird from the Iranian plateau as *pallidus* it being between *montanus* and *dilutus* in colour; Baluchistan specimens however do not differ from those from Turkestan.

Although I have no records within British Baluchistan of the Desert Rock Sparrow (*Carpodospiza brachydactyla*) yet it is likely to occur as W. D. Cumming found it resident as near as Charbar where he obtained specimens in April and October. Further on at Jask it is evidently common as on April 10, 1910, he found six nests. These he tells me were cup-shaped and situated in small desert bushes 1½ to 2½ feet from the ground; the eggs number 4 to 5 and have a white ground with minute brown spots especially towards the larger end. It is an early breeder as incubated eggs were found on April 1, and young, 'covered' with yellow down, on April 10, while other nests on that date had fresh eggs.

***Petronia petronia intermedia*, Hart. The Rock Sparrow.**

One was obtained by Lloyd at Quetta on March 14, 1910, and is in the Quetta Museum; Meinertzhagen obtained another there on February 28, 1914. Murray records a pair at Sagee on April 2, 1880. Swinhoe says it is a winter visitor to Kandahar. Apparently a rare straggler.

Bombycilla garrulus centralasiae, Poljakov. The Waxwing.

Meinertzhagen records that he obtained one of a pair at Quetta on November 11. No other record of this straggler, which Whitehead and Magrath met with in the N. W. F. Province.

The Snow Finch (*Montifringilla nivalis alpicola*) occurs in the *Hand-list of Indian Birds* as 'breeding from Caucasus to Baluchistan.' I know of no record of this species in Baluchistan.

Emberiza schæniclus pallidior, Hart. The Reed-Bunting.

The Reed-Bunting appears to be uncommon or else overlooked. There is one in the Bombay Museum collected by Watson at Chaman and there is one in the Quetta Museum from Sheik Mandah (labelled *E. stracheyi*!) obtained on November 15. Murray recorded it as common near Mach! W. D. Cumming obtained three at Saranan on March 2, 1924. Swinhoe lists it as a winter visitor to Kandahar.

Emberiza leucocephala, Gm. The Pine Bunting.

The Pine Bunting is a winter visitor in fair numbers but is only recorded from Kandahar and the Quetta district. Extreme dates of arrival and departure are November 11 and April 28.

I saw a flock at Quetta in December picking over droppings on a horse exercising ground and others in willow trees flying out and taking insects on the wing.

One received from W. D. Cumming obtained at Urak on February 19, 1924, is exactly intermediate in characters between *citrinella* and *leucocephalus* and would do for an abnormal bird of either species except for its larger size. It is a female W. 92, i.e., the size of *leucocephala* ♀ from which it differs by the pale yellow wash on the whole of the underparts while the chestnut colour on the upper breast is almost absent; also the bases of the crown feathers are yellow. It differs from *citrinella* ♀ in having less yellow on these parts and on the underwing, besides being larger. Such hybrids, as I take them to be, are fairly well known.

Emberiza stewarti, Blyth. The White-capped Bunting.

The White capped Bunting is a very common summer visitor to N. Baluchistan arriving in the hills at the end of April, earlier at lower elevations, and breeding on all the hills between 7,000 and 9,000 ft. Nests recorded as early as May 10, and as late as June 29; at the end of the first week in October it was still very common in the juniper forest at Ziarat and appeared to be the chief prey of the Sparrow Hawks; but some must leave earlier as I have seen a few in the Quetta Valley already by August 19. It seems that most leave Baluchistan for the winter though odd ones are recorded at Quetta in December but where they go to is not clear; there are no records of it in Central or South Baluchistan at that season, only one record in Sind and Mr. Whistler never found it in the Lower Punjab. It may possibly winter in the low hill country north of the Sibi Plain.

Emberiza cia per, Hart. The Meadow Bunting.

Though recorded as extremely common in N. Baluchistan by Murray, the Meadow Bunting appears to be quite rare. Watson records it from Chaman and I have seen two in the Quetta Museum, obtained at Balali on December 9, and at Quetta on February 24, and one in the British Museum obtained by Col. Venning at Fort Sandeman on December 26. Meinertzhagen obtained a fourth at Quetta on March 11.

This Bunting is probably commoner than these records indicate and it must breed as near our area as S. Waziristan whence there is a bird in the Bombay Museum obtained on the Marwatin River on June 29, 1918. St. John too obtained a young bird at Kowar Kalat (where?) on June 19, 1881.

Emberiza buchanani, Blyth. The Grey-necked Bunting.

N. Baluchistan would appear to be the eastern fringe of this bird's breeding distribution; Barnes says it is very common at Chaman arriving at the end of March and he believed it bred in the hills, i.e. the Kwaja Amian, and he found a nest on the Khojak which he attributed to this species. It is not clear that it breeds in Kalat where however it is common on spring passage in April.

Meinertzhagen considered it to be a scarce summer visitor round Quetta where he found a few pairs breeding in rock and low bush country between 5,500 and 8,000 ft. such as at Takatu, Spereragha, etc. He found a nest with one egg on May 9, another with four on June 11, and a third with young on May 30. Though Newnham recorded it as overwintering at Quetta most leave entirely, but I have notes of odd ones up till November 7.

In Central Makran it is doubtless a passage migrant; Hotson met with it in September in Jhalawan and in the valley of the Hingol. Cumming records it in small numbers at Ormarra in Coastal Makran during September and at the end of March and also at this time at Charbar.

Emberiza aureola, Pall. The Yellow-breasted Bunting.

The only record of this Bunting comes from Ormarra on the coast where Cumming obtained one on November 14, 1901; now in the British Museum.

Emberiza melanocephala, Scop. The Black-headed Bunting.

'Zarden drushk,' Bal. (= small yellow bird).

In N. Baluchistan the Black-headed Bunting is a spring and autumn passage migrant but although Barnes said he found it very common at Chaman in spring the evidence of others seems to point to its not being at all abundant. Swinhoe too found it uncommon enough to mention each individual and St. John lists it as very rare in N. Kalat. Such as pass this way are met with in April and early in August.

The main migration westward certainly passes further south; in S. Kalat and Jhalawan, Central and Coastal Makran this bird passes through in swarms, males first, during the last week in March and during April, as it does in Sind, but it has been noted at Ormarra as early as February 22. At Charbar Cumming noted the main passage as from March 26 to April 27. Further on at Bampur in Persian Baluchistan Blanford met with great numbers on April 14, passing through from the S.E. to reach their breeding grounds in the Persian Highlands. The return migration in Makran begins at the end of July and lasts to the third week in September. As in Sind so in Baluchistan this bird does not overwinter but passes on to Central India.

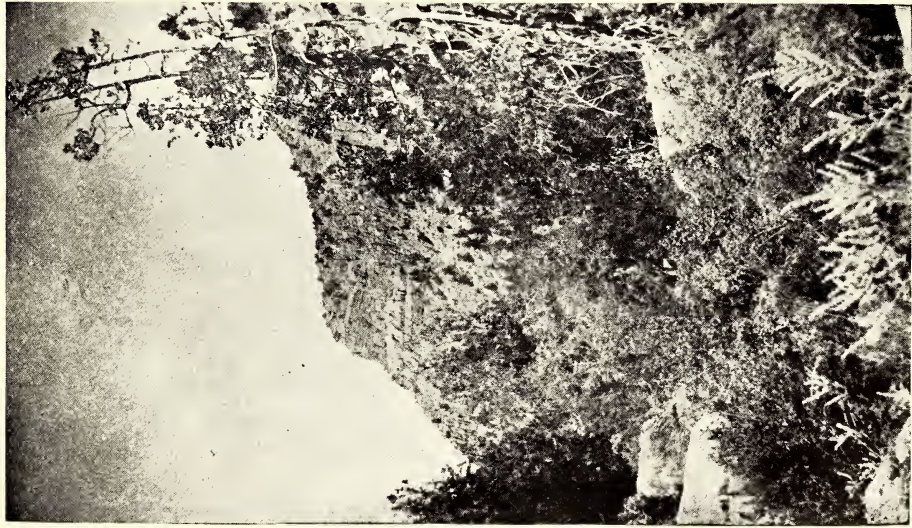
Emberiza ictérica, Evers. (= *luteola*, auct.) The Red-headed Bunting.

The Red-headed Bunting is a local summer visitor throughout N. Baluchistan, breeding at between 5,500 and 8,000 ft.; it arrives from mid-April onwards and is fairly common on passage in the Quetta Valley and at Chaman. It is recorded as fairly abundant in the nesting season between Kach and Ziarat but I found by September 24 all had already gone. The latest record I have is one from the Quetta Valley on November 11. This species must take a S.E. route to reach its winter quarters in the plains of India as it is unknown in Central and S. Baluchistan and practically unknown in Sind. I am indebted to W. D. Cumming for notes on the nesting of this Bunting; he found it breeding not uncommonly at Sheik-Mandah near Quetta. On arrival it starts building at once and the earliest nest found was on May 8 and this on the 21st held 3 eggs; the last week in May is the usual time for full clutches. The nests are well concealed in garden hedges, rose bushes, vines and not uncommonly 2 to 4 feet up in a fork of peach trees growing in wheat-fields. The male usually sings in the vicinity of the nest. A nest sent is composed of weed stalks and fibres and is lined with goat hair. Five is the usual full clutch. The eggs are white tinged with green and finely freckled all over with pale sepia and yellowish-brown, more at the larger end, and there is no scrolling as is seen in other Buntings' eggs; they measure 21.5×15.5 to 22.5×15.5 and 22×16 .

Emberiza striolata striolata (Licht.) The Striated Bunting.

In the north the Striated Bunting would seem to be local; it is not a bird of very high elevation and to the Quetta Valley it is but a straggler (obtained twice), though Marshall says it is not uncommon in the hills near Quetta in summer. Murray called it very common but he probably was referring to the Bolan Pass where it might well be fairly common; I saw it on the Nari River below Spintangi in September. Not recorded at Kandahar.

From S. Kalat southwards it is fairly common from the Khirthar on the east to the Persian border and beyond. It doubtless is more or less resident



IN THE JUNIPER FOREST, ZIARAT
HOME OF *M. carniipes* *Æg. leucogenys*,
Carpodacus grandis, ETC.



ON THE EDGE OF THE JUNIPER FOREST,
CHUKOR GROUND



A 'TANGI' IN ZIARAT FOREST



KHIRTHAR RANGE, SIND-BALUCHI FRONTIER
TYPICAL *Ceanothe alboniger* GROUND

moving altitudinally and locally down in winter when it is a bird of barren hillsides and sandy wastes. Duke obtained it in S. Kalat in the nesting season.

***Delichon urbica*, L.** The House Martin.

House Martins are said to be seen occasionally in the Quetta Valley and Marshall obtained one some years ago. It must be a rare bird as no one else has since met with it though Nicol Cumming says that it breeds in the hills near Quetta. This however needs confirmation. Baluchistan must be on the eastern fringe of this bird's distribution on passage.

***Riparia riparia riparia* (L).** The Sand Martin.

***Riparia riparia diluta* (Sharpe and Wyatt.)** The Pale Sand Martin.

Sand Martins do not appear to be common in N. Baluchistan; Meinertzhagen obtained two birds on August 1 and 4, which are too dark for *diluta* and not distinguishable from the typical race which must just fringe Baluchistan on passage.

Nicol Cumming records that Sand Martins breed near Quetta in April, but I know of no actual records of nests; breeding colonies must be few and far between as no one else has recorded it as nesting though Meinertzhagen obtained a specimen of *diluta* on June 11, and saw a party of 10 on June 24, he obtained a juvenile. Murray records it from Mach on March 17, and Swinhoe noted the arrival at Kandahar at the end of March; all his specimens are *diluta*. Hotson records it from Dalbad (2,900 ft.) on April 16. I saw a single bird at Khawas near Ziarat on September 28. It has been obtained at Fort Sandeman.

In Coastal Makran W. D. Cumming has noted Sand Martins in March and April while I found *diluta* common in the Habb Valley in winter as did Hotson in the Makran. There is a specimen from Charbar in the British Museum.

***Riparia chinensis* (Gray.)** The Indian Sand Martin.

Murray records that he obtained the Indian Sand Martin at Sibi and Pir Chowki at the entrance to the Bolan. He distinguished them from *diluta*. This bird may well occur at Sibi and in the Sibi Plain as it is exceedingly common in Upper Sind. It does not breed in Lower Sind, west of the Indus and so probably is not found in Las Belas.

***Ptynoprogne rupestris* (Scop.)** The Crag Martin.

The Crag Martin is a fairly common summer visitor to the hills of N. Baluchistan breeding at from 6,000 to 10,000 ft. in cliffs and sides of the 'tangis.' Betham records a nest with four fresh eggs on May 31, and Marshall a nest with young on May 27. Meinertzhagen has noted birds incubating as early as May 3, and young in the nest on July 24, so probably more than one brood is reared. At Ziarat I found it still fairly common on October 6, and Zeugmayer obtained it at Kalat on the 7th; an odd one is recorded at Quetta in December.

Unrecorded in Central and Coastal Makran; possibly it takes a more eastern route.

***Ptynoprogne obsoleta pallida*, Hume.** The Pallid Crag Martin.

The Pallid Crag Martin replaces the last in Central and Coastal Makran and probably in Jhalawan and is common and resident right through to the Persian boundary and beyond. In winter at all events it may be seen in the plains and even hawking over the shore, at which season it occurs in Las Belas to the Sind boundary. It may even breed on the coast as it certainly does according to W. D. Cumming at Jask in Persian Makran where a pair always nested in his verandah. Blanford records birds in breeding state at Jask and Kalayan on March 12, and Hotson obtained it at the end of April in Central Makran; I have no records of any nests but Hotson says it nests in 'Karez' pits.

In N. Baluchistan this bird's distribution is peculiar. Murray records it from Kondalanee in the Bolan Pass (900 ft.) and there is a specimen from there in the British Museum and it may well occur both there and along the foothills bordering the Sibi Plain as it does in similar places in Sind in winter. Further north it is not recorded until S. Afghanistan is reached where

the Afghan-Baluchi Boundary Commission obtained it, and St. John obtained it at Kandahar on May 3, where presumably it breeds.

Compared with Egyptian birds (*obsoleta*) obtained at the same time of year Baluchi birds are *darker*; these Crag Martins darken with wear and winter. Baluchi specimens are the same shade as Egyptian May birds, however if compared in similar states of plumage the two forms are easily separable. Unfortunately the Baluchi birds must bear the inappropriate name of *ballida*!

Hirundo rustica rustica. L. The Common Swallow.

'Kir Kishi' (Brahui), also 'Totaki.'

The Swallow is a common summer visitor to N. Baluchistan usually arriving at the end of February or beginning of March; Swinhoe however saw it already by January 29 at Kandahar and nesting numerous by February 10. St John in another year records the first arrivals on February 7. It probably settles down at lower elevations earlier than at Quetta. It nests in houses, culverts and commonly in the Quetta bazaar and ranges up to 7,000 ft. Swinhoe records a nest in a tent (cf. '*Birds of Mesopotamia*', J. B. N. H. Soc., vol. xxviii, p. 296.). Eggs are recorded at Quetta from March 23 to June 2, so more than one brood is reared. It breeds in the Bolan Pass but how far down towards the Sibi Plain is not known; it probably winters in the latter locality where I found it common in October. Meinertzhagen says all have left the Quetta Valley by the end of August.

In the Mekran the Swallow certainly breeds at Mand and Panjgur as well as at Kalagan and Jask just on the Persian side, at elevations of 2,750 to 3,500 ft. thence to the coast at Gwadar at sea-level; further west than this it is resident and breeds at Charbar and Jask. Possibly it breeds further east on the coast than Gwader as Butler saw one at Astola Island off Pasni on May 29. So far as I can trace it the breeding range in Baluchistan lies north and west of a line drawn from Gwader to Sibi. South and east of this line it is a winter visitor to Coastal Makran and Las Belas, but information is lacking over the rest of this area.

A Brahui verse runs:—

'Cat-footed Swallow, come sit on my door,

'Give me a piece of mutton fat for my feet are cracked.'

What is the legend behind this?

Hirundo smithi filifera, Steph. The Wire-tailed Swallow.

The Wire-tailed Swallow is a scarce local summer visitor to N. Baluchistan. It is recorded by Nicol Cumming as nesting at Harnai; in the Quetta Valley on the Lora River I found several pairs nesting in the 'karezas' entering the river and on August 18 examined an empty nest. It is unrecorded elsewhere till Kandahar is reached where St. John obtained a specimen on May 12, and saw others on several occasions on the Arghandab River and once at Kalat-i-Ghilzai in S. Afghanistan. It occurs in the Sibi Plain where it is doubtless resident.

In S. Baluchistan I only know of it in the Habb Valley where it is resident and breeds; a nest in a rock overhanging the river found by Mr. Culbertson on July 19 held three eggs.

Hirundo daurica rufula, Temm. The European Red-rumped Swallow.

There is nothing to add to Meinertzhagen's account of this bird (Ibis, 1920, p. 167). He says it is an evenly distributed but a scarce summer visitor to the Quetta District arriving in the last week of March and breeding in May at 5,000 to 11,000 ft. Lieut Searight informs me that a pair were building in the rest house at Barkhaw (Fort Sandeman District) on March 19, 1924. It leaves in September and October. Marshall records a nest at the end of April in a culvert under a railway bridge.

Not recorded elsewhere in Baluchistan, its passage perhaps lies further west.

Motacilla alba dukhunensis, Sykes. The Indian White Wagtail.

Common throughout the whole of Baluchistan (and at Kandahar) in winter except at the highest elevations, i.e., above 6,000 ft. It arrives in the Quetta Valley at the end of September and leaves early in April. Also in the north it is of course a double passage migrant in March and October.

It arrives in the Makran in October and leaves at the end of March ; W. D. Cumming noted it at Ormarra once as early as August 14, an unusually early date.

Motacilla alba personata, Gould. The Masked Wagtail.

The Masked Wagtail is sparingly distributed in N. Baluchistan ; it is recorded in winter at Kandahar (common), at Chaman, Pishin, Quetta Valley and Sibi. It undoubtedly breeds. Meinertzhagen saw it at Khushdil throughout May and near Baliki, June 2. Swinhoe obtained it at Kandahar on June 26. D. Radcliffe found it at Ziarat in June and July, while W. D. Cumming sent for identification a half-grown young bird picked up in Quetta Cantonment.

Though it probably occurs in small numbers in Makran, the only record we have of it is from near Dizak on the Persian side where Hotson found it fairly numerous on November 4, and obtained two specimens.

Motacilla cinerea caspica (Gm.) (= *melanope*, auct.) The Grey Wagtail.

In N. Baluchistan the Grey Wagtail is a summer visitor to the mountain streams between 7,000 and 9,500 ft. arriving according to Meinertzhagen early in March and nesting in May. He found nests with four eggs on June 2, and five young on June 10.

Some at all events overwinter in the lower plains and valleys ; it has been obtained at this season at Kandahar and Kalat, and on December 12 I saw several by an open pipe line in the Quetta Valley.

Hotson noted this bird in the Makran first on September 16, at Ornach in the Hingol Valley and obtained others on the Persian side in January. It is of course a winter visitor and not common.

Motacilla flava beema, Sykes. The Indian Blue-headed Wagtail.

The Blue-headed Wagtail occurs in small numbers in the Quetta Valley on spring passage from mid-March to mid-April and it is common too at Kandahar by the end of March. It has doubtless been overlooked in autumn. St. John's record that Duke obtained a young one at Mastung in June must, I think, have been made in error.

The only record in S. Baluchistan is Cumming's statement that it occurs at Ormarra on spring and autumn passage. It doubtless occurs elsewhere at these seasons but probably does not winter there as I failed to find it at that season in Sind.

Motacilla flava thunbergi, Billberg. The Grey-headed Wagtail.

The status of this bird is not at all clear and records appear to be mostly founded on sight records. Radcliffe says it is occasionally seen at the end of March and early in April at Quetta, whence Marshall also records it and also Murray. It probably does occur as Swinhoe certainly obtained several at Kandahar on spring passage and St John's record as *cinereocapilla* no doubt refers to the same. Meinertzhagen records it on passage at Quetta in the latter half of August. There are no records of this bird in the Makran nor in Sind.

Motacilla feldegg melanogriseus (Hom.) The Black-headed Wagtail.

The Black-headed Wagtail passes through N. Baluchistan's plains and lower valleys in spring in fair numbers. Meinertzhagen noted in the Quetta Valley from March 22 to May 5, and Swinhoe records the arrival at Kandahar as early as February 22. At Kandahar a few according to St. John remain to breed and there are specimens thence obtained on June 15. It passes through again in August and September. I have seen an immature bird obtained at Quetta on August 17, and I obtained one there on August 17, and another was obtained at Sibi on September 2.

It has been noted on the Makran coast on spring and autumn passage and on spring passage in Central Makran at which time Blanford too obtained it on the Persian side.

I cannot find the specimen (in the British Museum) recorded as *M. raii* obtained by St. John at Dubrai in April 1881, it could hardly have been this race.

Motacilla citreola citreola, Pall. The Yellow-headed Wagtail.

This is commonest Wagtail on spring passage in N. Baluchistan arriving in the middle of March and swarming early in April (Meinertzhagen); at this time it is recorded by Barnes as very common at Chaman and at Kandahar by Swinhoe. It has been obtained at Nushki as late as May. On autumn passage it must have been overlooked as Swinhoe got several at Kandahar; it is recorded in autumn by Marshall.

On autumn and spring passage it is common in S. Kalat, Jhalawan and Central Makran. Cumming records it too at Ormarra at these seasons but it probably winters in suitable spots as Hotson obtained it on the Persian side and Cumming at Charbar and I have seen it in the Habb Valley in winter.

Motacilla citreola calcaratus (Hdg.) Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail.

This Wagtail is chiefly a passage migrant in the north; Meinertzhagen notes it arriving in far fewer numbers than *citreola* early in April at Quetta and Swinhoe records it as common in spring at Kandahar; it has been obtained at Nushki in May. Here and there a few pairs breed; Meinertzhagen found two nests with young, at Khushdil on June 20, and at Bostan on June 18, and W. D. Cumming saw young on the wing at Khushdil on June 28, 1923. A few too breed according to St. John at Kandahar. On autumn passage it must have escaped notice amongst the other Wagtails; there is a specimen in the Quetta Museum obtained at Baleli on August 15.

There are no records elsewhere in Baluchistan.

Anthus trivialis trivialis, L. The Tree Pipit.

The Tree Pipit does not appear to be common or else it has been overlooked. Barnes recorded it for Chaman, and Radcliffe and Newnham say it is occasionally seen in the Quetta Valley in winter where in two years Meinertzhagen failed to meet with it. It certainly occurs at Kandahar in winter and spring. Murray recorded it as abundant on the plains above and below Quetta in March and April. Betham says that a few breed near Quetta and that he found two nests on June 21 with 3 eggs and with 3 young; but in the absence of any confirmation of this, or specimens bearing this statement out, I hesitate to accept it. I obtained a migrant at Ziarat on September 29 and W. D. Cumming notes it at Sheik Mandah on September 26. I have examined specimens from the Khojak, September 14 and Kandahar, October 31 and April 2 and Quetta September 22.

Cumming has obtained it at Ormarra in Makran on September 19, otherwise there are no records in S. Baluchistan where it must surely occur here and there in winter or on passage.

Murray thought he examined the remains of a specimen of *Anthus maculatus* (= *hodgsoni*); he was doubtless mistaken.

Anthus sordidus decaptus, Meinertz. The Brown Pipit.

Recorded by the old writers as *A. similis* or *jerdoni*, this Pipit is common throughout N. Baluchistan from Kalat to N. E. boundary breeding in the hills at from 6,000 to 9,500 ft. In winter it wanders down to the lower valleys and plains including the Sibi Plain and I found all had left the Ziarat District by the third week in September. Nests with eggs are recorded from April 19 to July 18, so probably there is more than one brood. Four to five is the usual clutch and the nests are usually on hill slopes in the shelter of a rock or tussock.

To Coastal Makran, including Las Belas, it is a scarce winter visitor but it possibly breeds in Central Makran as it does so in Persian Baluchistan, but I have no actual records.

A series of Persian, Baluchi and Sind birds measure W. 94-105 and this I find to be the same as in *A. s. jerdoni*; quite fresh-moulted birds are more rusty underneath than they are later in the year and approach very near to *jerdoni* while the edges to the grater wing coverts may be as brown as in *jerdoni*; however in series *decaptus* can be differentiated.

Anthus richardi rufulus, Vieill. The Indian Pipit.

On August 17 I saw a pair of Pipits in some damp grass close to Galbraith Spinney in Quetta which were undoubtedly this species. St. John obtained it at Kandahar on June 15 where he says it is a summer visitor;

Swinhoe too obtained it at Pishin at the end of April. It will probably be found here and there in the north in the plains and valleys and it may well occur in Las Belas but there are no records of it. Murray lists it.

Anthus campestris griseus, Nicoll. The Tawny Pipit.

St. John and Marshall both record the Tawny Pipit as common in winter in N. Baluchistan as Swinhoe does for Kandahar. Some may winter of course but all the specimens available tend to show that it is a passage migrant passing through in September and October and in March and April. In the Quetta Valley it would be seen to be rare as Meinertzhagen only met with two both in April. The spring passage would appear to last from about March 20 to April 26. I obtained one at Ziarat (in a small clearing in thick juniper forest!) on September 25.

At Nal in S. Kalat Duke obtained it on April 22 and in Coastal Makran Cumming has noted it in spring and autumn, but one would think that it must winter there. At Dizak on the Persian boundary Blanford obtained it on March 24.

I know not on what grounds this bird is listed as 'breeding' in Baluchistan in the *Hand List of Indian Birds*. Sex for sex measurements will at once distinguish this pipit from *rufulus*; W. ♂ 90-94, B. 17-18, ♀ 81-84, B. 16-17. *rufulus* W. ♂ 80-85, ♀ 76-80.

Anthus cervinus, Pall. The Red-throated Pipit.

The Red-throated Pipit was obtained by Blanford at Dizak, just over the border in Persian Makran on March 24. It should occur within our area as a winter visitor passage migrant but there are no records of it.

THE WATER-PIPIT

Anthus spinoletta blakistoni, Swinh.

Anthus spinoletta coutelli, Savig.

The Water-Pipit is a winter visitor to the lower valleys and plains of N. Baluchistan and Kandahar from early October to the second week in April. It is not uncommon in suitable places such as irrigated fields, ditches, etc. Both races occur and I have examined several of both races from Quetta and Kandahar.

It is found throughout Coastal Makran in winter and probably also in Central Makran; it so happens that the western birds I have examined are *coutelli* and the eastern ones *blakistoni*.

Oreocorys sylvanus (Hodg.) The Upland Pipit.

Ball states that he shot one and saw several in the highest parts of the Sulaiman Range. It may well occur there as Whitehead records it from Samana, 4,500 feet, near Kohat. A bird however which was obtained at Quetta on September 22, and which has been recorded by Radcliffe and Meinertzhagen as this species is nothing but a Tree Pipit. It is in the Quetta Museum where I have examined it.

[Radcliffe records that he often saw Pipits at Ziarat breeding in June and July at 9,000 ft. which he thought might be *Anthus rosaceus* of which species I have no record in Baluchistan. What species it is which breeds at Ziarat is still unknown and all Pipits had gone when I was there in September.]

Alaemon alaudipes cinerea, Zar. The Large Desert Lark.

Radcliffe says this Desert Lark occurs sparingly and records one from Quetta Valley in the winter of 1911-12 where Meinertzhagen obtained one on November 3, 1913; he also records one from the Zhob Valley in April 1891. According to Nicol Cumming it breeds at Nushki and it had been obtained at Kandahar. It probably occurs here and there in suitable plains; Murray records it from the Bolan Pass and Gulistan.

In Las Belas, Jhalawan, S. Kalat and throughout Coastal and Central Makran it occurs in suitable places and is resident, especially in the sand-hills and desert plains near the coast. W. D. Cumming who found several nests with 3, and once, 4 eggs between April 5 and 27 describes the nest as always being placed on a small bush or shrub,

Otocorys alpestris albigula, Bp. (= *pencillata* auct., pl.) The Horned Lark.

This Horned Lark is recorded from Kandahar by Swinhoe and St. John but so far has not been obtained within our limits though I thought I saw a flock on the top of Kitchener Hill, Quetta, on December 12. Swinhoe obtained a pair at Kandahar on January 25, 1881, in the British Museum.

Melanocorypha bimaculata. (Ménét.) The Bimaculated Lark.

Most authors state that this large Lark is a winter visitor to N. Baluchistan but there are no definite records between November 26, and March 2. I know of no record bearing out Radcliffe's suggestion that it breeds there. Swinhoe says it is a common cage bird at Kandahar and a winter visitor there. Watson must surely have meant this species when he records *M. maxima* from Chaman.

Cumming has noted this Lark as a not uncommon winter visitor to the Makran coast and Blanford too obtained it at Gwadar. Beyond the fact that Duke got it in S. Kalat I have no information concerning the rest of the Makran.

The Curator of the Quetta Museum assured me that he had examined two Calandra Larks (*M. calandra*) taken by bird-catchers amongst some Bimaculated Larks at Quetta in the winter of 1916, however as these were not preserved, I must omit them.

Alda arvensis intermedia, Swinh. (= *dulcivox*, Brooks = *cinerea*, Ehmcke.)

The Skylark.

All records of any *arvensis* breeding in British Baluchistan are erroneous. The Skylark is a winter visitor in considerable numbers to the valleys and plains, including Kandahar, but not Sibi, from mid-November to the end of February.

It may winter in Central-Makran but the only record I have comes from Magas on the Persian side. Not recorded elsewhere.

Alda arvensis schach, Ehmcke.

Meinertzhagen has shown me two males collected by him at Quetta on October 30, 1913 and February 20, 1914 (W.118-119) which are pale sandy brown above quite unlike *intermedia*. The bird described by Ehmcke from E. Persia is said to be of this colour and so I place these birds under this name until more is known about this race.

Alda gulgula inconspicua. Severtz. The Small Turkestan Skylark.

This is the breeding Skylark of N. Baluchistan below 6,000 feet. St. John says it is resident but Swinhoe states it is a summer visitor. All the records which I have been able to gather relate to the period March 20-August 24. Meinertzhagen records nests at Khushdil on May 17, with 3 eggs and on July 11, with 3 young. I found this Lark abundant in damp grass fields and cut lucerne in the Quetta Valley in mid-August. It occurs from S. Kalat to Kandahar and from Quetta to the Bolan Pass. There are no records of it elsewhere.

I have examined 13 Baluchi-Kandahar specimens, a large series from the plains of India and a few Turkestan birds. The Baluchi birds measure W. 90-101, and the typical race 87-98. Some March birds from the plains of India are quite as pale as Turkestan and Kandahar birds though others are darker while some freshly moulted Baluchi birds are only a trifle paler than fresh moulted Indian birds. On the whole I think this is a poorly defined race which can only be said to average paler and larger than the Indian bird.

Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis (Evers.) The Short-toed Lark.

This Short-toed Lark is a winter visitor in numbers from October to March; the earliest I have seen it was on September 24 at Khawash, near Ziarat and I obtained one at the latter place on October 3. It is also a passage migrant through N. Baluchistan.

To Central and Coastal Makran it is also a winter visitor, the latest record being April 13, in Kolwa District.

Most specimens I have examined are typical *longipennis* but in the plains of India individuals occur which are barely separable from the typical race.

***Calandrella acutirostris acutirostris*, Hume. Hume's Short-toed Lark.**

Hume's Short-toed Lark is fairly common in the hills of N. Baluchistan but rather local; it breeds in the valleys of the hills at 6,000 to 9,000 feet throughout the Kalat and Quetta Districts. Meinertzhagen records nests between May 10, and June 8, with one and four eggs and he thinks that most of the birds leave in the winter, he has however obtained it at Chaman on February 17. It may of course have been overlooked but it has not been met with in Lower Punjab in winter nor in S. Baluchistan and is only once recorded from Upper Sind.

***Calandrella raytal adamsi* (Hume.) The Indus Sand Lark.**

This Sand Lark is probably resident all along the Makran coast. Cumming has seen it at Ormarra and obtained it at Pasni in February while at Jask in Persian Makran he found it breeding. I have seen skins from Bundar Abbas further west still where it was said to be numerous. Unknown elsewhere in Baluchistan.

***Calandrella rufescens leucophæa*, Severtz. The Lesser Short-toed Lark.**

Meinertzhagen has shown me a specimen of this Lesser Short-toed Lark which he obtained on November 7, at Quetta; it is a very pale grey form.

***Calandrella rufescens seebohmi* (Sharpe.)**

Meinertzhagen identifies as this race a bird he shot from the nest at Kushdil Khan on May 17, and which he previously (*B.N.H.S. Journal*, xxiii, 362) identified as *persica*. It is not clear therefore that this last race occurs within our limits though two labelled S. Afghanistan (Griffith coll.) are in the British Museum.

***Calandrella rufescens seistanica*, Zar. and Loud.**

Meinertzhagen informs me that he obtained a bird which he assigns to this form at Quetta on November 7, out of the same flock as the specimen of *leucophæa* above. This race appears to be very close to *seebohmi*.

It is evident that there is much yet to be learnt concerning the range and status of the Lesser Short-toed Larks in N. Baluchistan. In the Makrans there is no record of any form of it.

***Mirafa erythroptera sindianus*, Ticehurst. The Red-winged Bush Lark.**

This Bush Lark certainly occurs in the Habb Valley where I saw it doubtless breeding in June and it may well occur in parts of Las Belas but probably not elsewhere in Makran. Some species of Bush Lark occurs in the Suleiman Hills (Fort Munro District) as Ball records that he obtained a young bird which he doubtfully identified as *cantillans* in July 1874 at 4,000 ft. in the Charmarlang Valley.

***Galerida cristata magna*, Hume. Hume's Crested Lark.**

This Crested Lark is common and more or less resident throughout Kalat and the whole of N. E. Baluchistan below 7,500 ft. but is scarce above 6,500 ft. First nests with eggs may be found by the last week in April and the usual clutch is 4 or 5 eggs; W. D. Cumming notes however a nest with young on April 27.

This race extends, in winter at least, to the Sibi Plain and to the Makran.

This is undoubtedly the race that breeds in Kalat, Quetta District, Kandahar, and Fort Sandeman District, and probably in Central Makran.

***Galerida cristata chendoola* (Frankl.) Franklin's Crested Lark.**

This is undoubtedly the breeding bird in the Habb Valley and Las Belas Plain. Laubmann records the birds collected by Zeugmayer in Coastal Makran as *magna*? I have examined these birds (kindly sent me by Dr. Laubmann); they are breeding birds and very worn in plumage more so than would be Sind birds at the same time of year (cf. under *Argya c. huttoni*) and are also very bad specimens but they agree fairly well with *chendoola* and have not the sandy colour of *magna*, moreover they are small for this race (5 ♂♂, W. 100-109.); on the other hand I have seen no *chendoola* from the Indian Plains with a wing quite so long as 109. Two birds collected by Hotson in February at Charbar however are certainly *chendoola* by their coloration, both

labelled males they have wings of 99 and 108. It seems probably the case then that in western Coastal Makran we find the intergrading area between these two races. From Central Makran I have only seen winter birds and these are *magna*, but a bird from Dizak on the Persian boundary obtained on March 21, when it may have been breeding or still a winter visitor, is too undoubtedly *magna*.

The Crested Larks then of the Makrans present an interesting problem as to over what area and where the Indian form intergrades into the hill form of the north, and this can only be determined by more and carefully collected specimens; but it is of considerable interest to find that so far as we know intergradation takes place in one area and is the same area where *Argya c. caudata* grades into *A. c. huttoni*.

Breeding birds from Sibi and the Bolan Pass would be of interest as here too probably intergradation takes place.

The Crested Lark has several names in Baluchistan according to the District—Chajok, Chotab, Chagul, Chirlul, Chagag and in Persian Kamalak.

***Ammomanes deserti iranica*, Zar.** The Persian Desert Lark.

***Ammomanes deserti phœnicuroides* (Blyth.)** The Indian Desert Lark.

‘Dasht-i-Chajok’, Bal.; ‘Kompi’, Brahui.

Desert Larks are common and resident throughout the whole of Baluchistan; in the north they affect the foothills of the plains, and valleys up to 7,000 ft. but not ascending the actual hills. They breed in the first half of May.

In the Makrans it is common and occurs and breeds right down to sea-level; here it nests earlier as Cumming noted fledged young on March 18 and again on June 14 and nest building on June 8, so, two if not three broods are reared.

These two races are very near each other; birds from Persian Makran are topo-typical *iranica* and these are darker colder grey on the upper parts than *phœnicuroides* and tend to run rather larger; a large series measure ♂ W. (99) 101–112, ♀, 96–101; *phœnicuroides* does not reach such extreme measurements, a series (Cashmere. Punjab and Sind) ♂ 99–104·5, ♀ 93–99. Under *iranica* then I would place birds from Gwader, Charbar and Persian Makran, Persian Baluchistan, E. Persia and Muscat in Arabia. Passing east, the Las Belas bird is certainly *phœnicuroides* (as is Lower Sind) but between these two areas I have seen none; probably as in the case of the Crested Lark intergrading will be found.

Passing to the north, birds from Sibi and the Bolan Pass are *phœnicuroides* as are birds from Fort Sandeman. When we come to Quetta, Kalat and Kandahar birds, I find that many are indistinguishable in colour from *phœnicuroides* in all three localities but they tend to run a trifle larger, 7 ♂ W. 99–108, 6 ♀ W. 96–104. Odd birds however are not distinguishable in colour from *iranica*. The larger series which I have examined does not bear out that Quetta birds are *iranica* and Kandahar birds are *phœnicuroides* as suggested by Meinertzhagen but that here in N. E. Baluchistan too we have an intergrading between the two races.

From Central Makran I have only seen one or two moulting specimens and so cannot fix which race is found there or whether they too are intermediates.

***Ammomanes phœnicura zarudnyi* Hart.** Hartert’s Rufous-tailed Desert Lark.

This Lark must surely occur in British Baluchistan; Zarudny obtained it at several places in Eastern Persia (which, like most of his localities, I am unable to trace on the maps) and also in the ‘Mashkel Plain’ but whether on the Persian or British side of the frontier is not apparent. However as Blanford obtained it south of Sehwan in Sind it should occur right across Baluchistan.

***Pyrrhulauda grisea siccata* Ticehurst.** The Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark.

W. D. Cumming informed me that he has seen a few pairs on plough land near Ormarra and it may well occur in Las Belas. No other record in the south. Murray records it from the Bolan Pass.

***Pyrrhulauda frontalis affinis*, Blyth.** The Black-crowned Finch-Lark.

This Finch Lark is probably a local resident all along the Makran coast to Persian Makran. It is certainly resident in the Habb Valley; Cumming obtained it at Ormarra; Zeugmayer near the Hingol River and near Pasni and Blanford at Bahu Kalat. No records elsewhere.

***Cinnyris asiatica brevirostris* (Blanf.)** The Purple Sunbird.

The Sun-bird is not uncommon in the Sibi Plains and appears to ascend the Bolan Pass to Mach as a summer visitor at the end of March, and occasionally straggles to Quetta; it is not recorded from elsewhere in N. Baluchistan.

Throughout Las Belas, Jhalawan and as far as Nal in S. Kalat the Sun-bird occurs upto 4,000 ft. and is common as it is too throughout Coastal and Central Makran in suitable places, especially in tamarisks in the valleys. Further west it extends through Persian Baluchistan as far as Bam and Bunder Abbas in E. Persia and Muscat in Arabia.

The type of *brevirostris* came from Persian Baluchistan and the few specimens I have seen from British Makran and 9 males from Mach in the Bolan do not differ from *brevirostris*, their bills measure 15-16.5 mm. (from frontal feathers) against 14-16 mm. in a series of topo types.

Cumming who found this bird nesting plentifully at Charbar noted that none of the nests had the 'porch' entrance and thought that this absence was associated with no rainfall; I noted the same circumstance in Sind.

***Picus squamatus flavirostris* (Menzb.) = (*gorii*, auct.).** Hargitt's Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker.

This Woodpecker occurs in the juniper forest at Ziarat where Meinertzhagen obtained several and where I and Radcliffe have seen both birds and old nest holes. St. John records it from the Kwaja Amran and it occurs on other forested hills in N.E. Baluchistan and extends to Shinghar in the Zhob Valley and doubtless other places though I have no record of it in Kalat. It is nowhere very common and is resident moving to the lower valleys only in winter and has at this season been obtained in Quetta.

Unknown elsewhere in Baluchistan but occurs on the Helmund in Seistan.

***Dryobates scindeanus* (H. and M.)** The Sind Pied Woodpecker.

'Giham' Bralui; 'Tukok' Bəl. 'Burdi-tokeri', in S. Kalat.

The distribution of the Sind Pied Woodpecker is rather patchy; it is found at Sibi but up the Bolan it is unknown and to Pishin and Quetta it is only a wanderer. However, at Shalabagh and at Chaman on either side of the Khojak and on the Kwaja Amran it is fairly common and resident. Murray records a nest without eggs on April 4 and Barnes found a nest with young in May. It occurs throughout Kalat.

In the south it occurs not uncommonly in the Las Belas Plain breeding in the *Acacia arabica*. Here and there it is not uncommon in the valleys of the Central Makran such as the Dhor, Mashkai and Nihing and occurs north to Nal in S. Kalat. Further westward its distribution can be traced into Persian Baluchistan at elevations up to 3,000 on to Bampur in Persian Baluchistan.

Baluchi birds are not different to Sind ones; the bills vary much in size but this is individual, not geographical. It is not a bird of high elevations.

***Brachypternus benghalensis dilutus*, Blyth.** The Sind Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Within our area this Woodpecker only occurs at Sibi where it is no doubt resident.

***Lynx torquilla torquilla* (L.)** The Wryneck.

The Wryneck occurs in N. Baluchistan as a passage migrant only; earliest March 10, most pass in April to mid-May and again in mid-September; it is never common and is only recorded from the Quetta Valley, Kandahar and Loralai Districts.

For the rest of Baluchistan there is very little information, it must pass through on passage as W. D. Cumming noticed it regularly on passage at Ormarra and Charbar from mid-August to the last week of September and again in March in quite small numbers; presumably these are oversea migrants. There are no winter records.

I agree with Meinertzhagen that the Baluchi birds (as also the Sind ones) belong to the typical race.

***Coracias benghalensis benghalensis* (L.)** The Indian Roller.

'Kangashk' (Bal.)

The Indian Roller is resident at Sibi and at the entrance to the Bolan Pass; it is said by Swinhoe to occasionally straggle to Quetta but no one has met with it there in recent years.

In the Mekran it is more or less resident below 3,000 feet ; avoiding hills and more desert parts it is found where trees are sufficient which means practically its distribution is that of the Date Palm. From Las Belas it can be traced as far north as Jebri in Mashkai valley (Jhalawan) but no further north. Westward it is found throughout the Makran in suitable places to Persia and beyond ; in other places where it does not breed, such as Ormarra, it is a winter visitor from August to May.

Coracias garrula semenowi, Loud and Tschusi. The Common Roller.

' Sabzkarask ' (Brahui)

The Roller arrives in N. Baluchistan early in April and becomes commoner later in the month. Nicol Cumming and Murray both record it as swarming on passage on the Khojak and on the Kwaja Amran hills but in other places it would appear to be less common. It is common too at Nushki in April. St. John recorded it as a common summer visitor to Kalat but he gives no evidence of it breeding nor does Radcliffe who found it common between Kach and Ziarat at the end of July. It returns on passage regularly at this date and I know of no evidence of it nesting within our area. Its migration extends throughout August and odd ones may occur later.

It must occur in the Mekran as a passage migrant one would think, but I have no definite record of it.

Merops orientalis beludschicus, Neumann. The Little Green Bee-eater.

Swinhoe records the Little Green Bee-eater from the Bolan Pass but not beyond Mach and it is of course common as a resident in or a summer visitor to the Sibi Plain ; it occasionally straggles into the Quetta Valley where it is recorded in November and January.

Common and resident throughout Coastal and Central Makran and so into Persian Baluchistan, to Bampur, Bunder Abbas, etc. In the Makran Hotson did not meet with it further north than Gajar in the Mashkai Valley.

Merops persicus persicus, Pall. The Persian Bee-eater.

' Haur Murgh ' (Brahui=rainbird) ' Kurru ' (Bal.)

The Persian Bee-eater is locally fairly common as a summer visitor to N. Baluchistan ; Meinertzhagen and W. D. Cumming have met with it breeding at several localities in the Quetta District, viz., Sheik Wasil, Khushdil, Saranan and Yaru, the former recording nests with 3 and 4 eggs on June 2. St. John considered it to be a common summer visitor to S. Afghanistan and Kalat and Hotson came across it in two localities in S. Kalat in the breeding season. I noticed it on passage in the Sibi Plain at the end of September and early in October.

It would appear to breed here and there throughout at least the western part of Central and Coastal Mekran, definite records coming from Panjgur, Nihing Valley and Gwadar. As a passage migrant they first arrive early in April, most coming later in the month, to early May and it repasses again in the last half of August.

A young bird recorded as *Merops phillipinus* by Radcliffe which was shot at Quetta on September 1913 and went to the Quetta Museum must, I think, have been wrongly identified. There is no specimen of this bird in the museum.

Merops apiaster, L. The Common Bee-eater.

By far the commoner of the two large Bee-eaters the European bird is an abundant summer visitor to N. Baluchistan arriving throughout April (earliest 4th) and leaving by September. It nests in suitable places in the plains and valleys below 6,000 ft. between Quetta and Kandahar and east to Shingar in the Zhob Valley and all over Kalat where Hotson found it very abundant at Mastung and a great nuisance to bee-hive owners. But besides bees it preys upon wasps and hornets and Nurse records that it is the only bird which will tackle the fierce yellow wasp *Polistes hebraeus*. Meinertzhagen records nest excavations on April 15 and first eggs on May 9.

South of Shiretai (Kharan) in S. Kalat (where it breeds) this Bee-eater is apparently only a passage migrant, but Hotson met with it in the Panjgur District on April 27, where it may have been on passage. It arrives in Coastal Makran in the first days of April and repasses again in August overseas.

Ceryle rudis leucomelanura, Reichen. The Pied Kingfisher

The Pied Kingfisher is resident at Sibi and only just penetrates into the hills up the Nari River where I have seen it and up into the Bolan Pass. To the Quetta Valley it appears to occasionally straggle where single birds are recorded by Duke and Marshall. Lieut. Searight informs me it is always to be found near perennial water in the Zhob and Loralai Districts. St. John says it is very rare at Kandahar.

It is common and breeds in the Habb Valley and perhaps elsewhere in Las Belas but there are no records of it west of this. There appears to be a big break in the distribution of the Pied Kingfisher; the typical race occurs as far east as the Shiraz District where it is rare.

Alcedo atthis pallasii, Reichen. The Central Asian Kingfisher.

'Narian Shid' (Bal.)

Although there are no records of any nests of this Kingfisher in N. Baluchistan it seems quite possible that some may breed there. At all events it is common in the valleys and plains where water is found from November to May (latest May 6) and Meinertzhagen records a bird in the hills on July 17. In the Sibi Plain it occurs in winter.

To Central Makran it is a winter visitor arriving at the end of August and on the coast at this season it is found on salt water frequenting mangrove swamps or posts about the shore. So far as is known it does not breed in the Makran but Hotson met with it in the Punjur District on April 23.

Numerous specimens examined from Baluchistan all belong to this race and none to *bengalensis* W. 73-78, B exp., 36-42. mm.

Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis (L). The White-breasted Kingfisher.

'Aspi-chidok' (Bal.) (=he who chatters at horses.)

The White-breasted Kingfisher is resident in the Sibi Plain and occurs in the lower part of the Bolan Pass. It occasionally straggles to Quetta where one has been obtained on August 2, 1908. Not recorded from Kandahar.

Coming down from Kalat Hotson did not meet with this species until he got to Gajar in the Mashkai Valley and Duke implies that above about this part it is but a wanderer. From the Sind boundary in Las Belas throughout Central and Coastal Mekran it is found locally wherever there are suitable trees, date groves, etc., and it is resident. West of our boundary its distribution can be traced right through Southern Persia to Iraq. (cf. *Ceryle rudis*).

Upupa epops epops. The European Hoopoe.

'Lachar-g'hak' (Pushtu), 'Murgh-i-Suliman' (Bal.)

The Hoopoe is mainly a summer visitor to N. Baluchistan and is quite common and generally distributed. It arrives in March and April, Meinertzhagen records nests with eggs (maximum 5) between May 14 and June 11 and Marshall a nest with 4 young on May 18. It breeds in holes in trees and rocks between 5,000 and 9,000 feet. I found most had left the hills by the end of September, but some must winter in the lower valleys and plains as I have several records from Quetta between November and February, also at Kandahar. It winters of course in the Sibi Plain.

All through the Coastal and Central Makran it is a characteristic winter bird and is recorded at Ormarra already by August 4 but how far south it breeds is by no means determined. It of course breeds in Kalat and probably at Nal in S. Kalat and Hotson records it from Mand boundary outpost in Central Makran but there are no other records suggestive that it breeds in the Makran. On the coast line Cumming has noted it as a passage migrant in August and September and again in March and no doubt many cross the sea for the winter; on March 23, 1918, when 20 miles from Charbar a Hoopoe came aboard my boat tired out and remained till we reached Karachi.

Baluchi Hoopoes I cannot separate from the typical race and I think Zarudny must have been mistaken in referring his Persian-Baluchi specimens to the resident Indian form. *Upupa epops loudoni* described from Baluchistan by Tschusi (Orn. Jah. 1902) is a synonym of the typical race.

Micropus melba, L. The Alpine Swift.

The Alpine Swift is a summer visitor to the hills of the Quetta District arriving according to Marshall at the end of April and early May. It has been obtained